

Statement of the Honorable Joe Barton  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Consideration of S. 1608 on the Floor of the House of  
Representatives under Suspension of the Rules  
December 8, 2006

Mr. Speaker,

I rise in support of S. 1608, the “Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act”, also know as the SAFE WEB Act. Mr. Speaker, my Committee dealt with this issue in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress because it is a growing problem. The issue is important because fraud perpetrated against our citizens increasingly originates or is committed outside the U.S: the Federal Trade Commission reports 20% of the complaints it received are “cross-border” fraud complaints. Under current law, there is little the FTC can do to stop or prosecute a perpetrator outside the U.S.

The Safe Web Act will make two significant changes to help stop the fraud and protect consumers. First, it amends the FTC Act

definition of “unfair or deceptive acts or practices” to include acts or practices involving foreign commerce. Second, it allows the FTC to share information and cooperate with foreign governments to investigate and take action on fraud complaints consistent with existing law enforcement practices.

I am pleased to see that S. 1608 reflects and codifies the inter-agency agreement reached in 2004. We have an amendment that will make a few minor changes to S. 1608. The Amendment strikes the findings, eliminates the gift provision to the FTC, and sunsets the legislation after 7 years.

This is good consumer protection legislation and will help law enforcement agencies find and prosecute criminals outside our borders committing fraud against our citizens.

I would like to thank FTC Chairwoman Majoras as well as Jeanne Bumpus at the FTC for their efforts to help make this legislation a law.

I urge my colleagues to pass the bill so we can continue to protect consumers and prosecute criminals.

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